T-P

Garrison Still Is in Hospital

District Attorney Jim Garrison's prolonged stay in the hospital has moved into its third month, and there is some question as to how long it will be before he will be able to return to his desk.

Garrison checked into Hotel Dieu on July 14, according to a hospital spokesman, and has been receiving treatment for a bad back which has plagued him since at least late last year.

Garrison has been at Hotel Dieu continuously since July 14, according to the hospital spokesman.

Assistant District Attorney James Alcock said Monday that he believes Garrison will be able to return to the office on at least a partial basis within the next two weeks.

He said that since Garrison's hospitalization on July 14 he has been in almost daily consultation with the DA either by phone or personal visit.

One of Garrison's physicians, Dr. Walter H. Brent Jr., is less optimistic about Garrison's chances of being back at the office in the Criminal Courts Building within the next two weeks.

Dr. Brent said Monday it is possible Garrison could be back in the office within two weeks but added "you can never be too certain about anything like this in medicine."

Dr. Brent did say that Garrison has been "much more comfortable" recently and that he has been taking exercises for his back.

Garrison's troubles with his back began at least as early as his campaign for re-election as DA in late 1969 when he made only infrequent personal appearances.

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